

REFLECTIONS:

Ted talks about civil rights and the gay Trump vote



Ted Martin

Ted Martin is a native Pennsylvanian and a longtime activist and non-profit professional. Martin has worked in several varied administrative and communications capacities over the past two decades. Most recently executive director of Equality PA for seven years, Martin reflects on the state of LGBT affairs for *The Central Voice*.

Central Voice: *What do you think of as your accomplishments while serving as executive director of Equality PA?*

Ted Martin: Serving as Executive Director of Equality PA was exhilarating, exhausting, eye-opening, fun, sometimes brutal and disappointing, and always an honor. This type of work is not for the faint of heart. In my seven years, I point to passage of 22 local nondiscrimination ordinances throughout Pennsylvania as a great victory. Working with citizen advocates to make their towns a place where it's against the law to fire an LGBT person, or refuse them housing or a public ac-

Please see **TED MARTIN**, page **21**

The Central Voice garners awards

The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation recently announced this year's recipients of the Newspaper of the Year honors. The awards recognize top newspapers from the entire state.

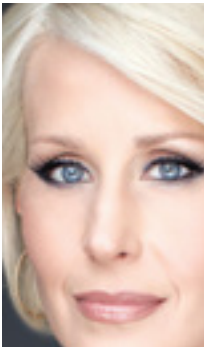
The purpose of this contest is to recognize outstanding work across all departments



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PERSPECTIVE:
**Do you self-censure
public affection?**
PGS. 16

**Scientology
tried to
"cure" me**
PGS. 19



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CASH BAIL



IS THIS A QUEER ISSUE?

By Louie Marven

Margaret Goof, of the Justice Policy Center, recently called on people to honor the legacy of Pride by bailing out LGBT people. The center focuses on incarceration, juvenile justice, and policing technology. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of The Stonewall Riots. Her call to action couldn't be more timely.

Mass incarceration disproportionately impacts queer people in general —and queer women in particular. While queer women (defined as lesbian, bisexual, and women who have sex with women) comprise only 3 percent of all U.S. adult women, 42 percent of women in prison and 36 percent of women in jail are queer-identified, goof wrote in a recent Advocate article.

Of the approximately 35,560 queer women

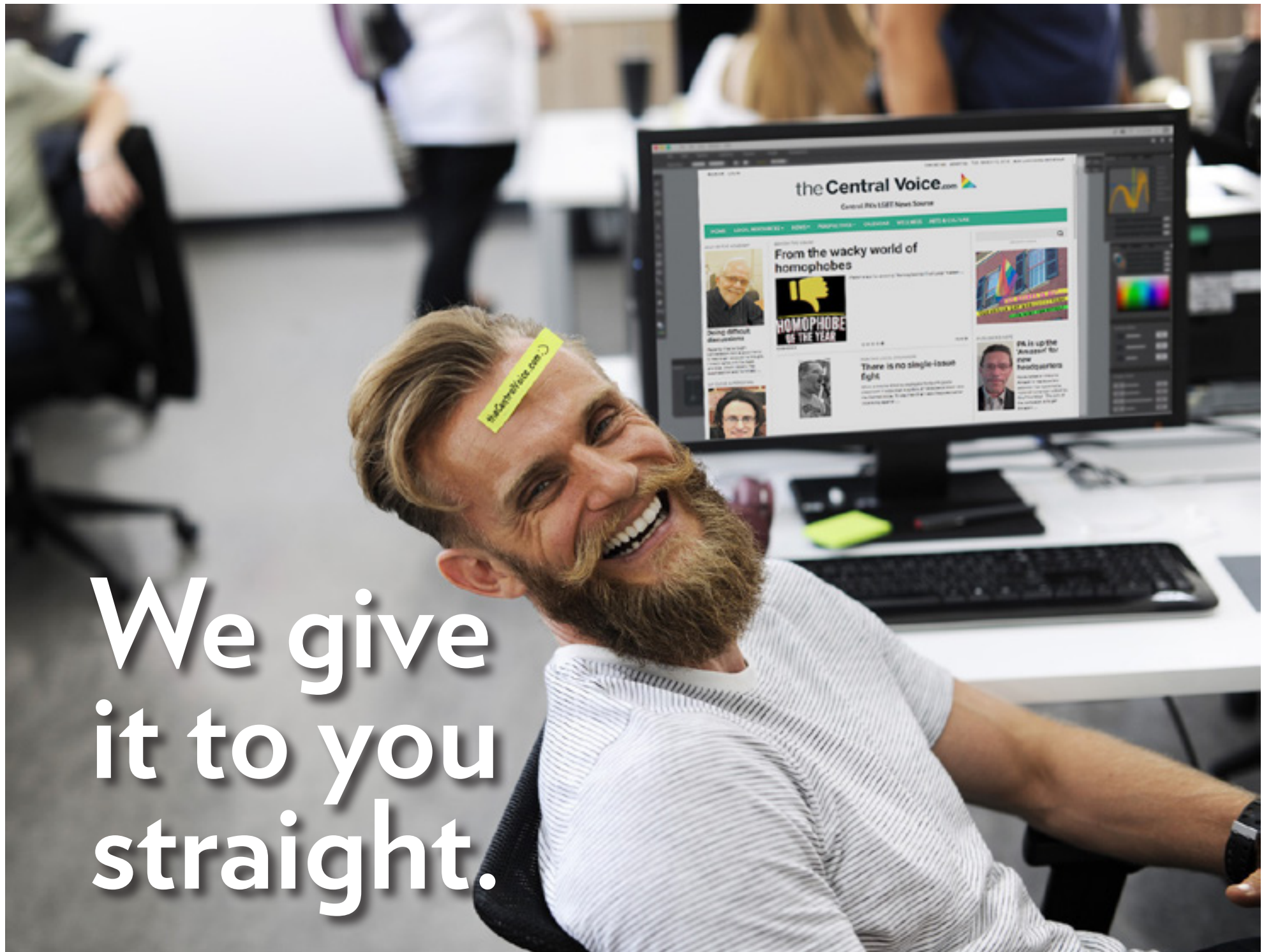
currently incarcerated in local jails, many (approximately 20,736) of them have yet to be convicted of a crime and are sitting in a cell simply because they cannot afford cash bail.

During this summer's Pride Festival of Central PA, I sat at a table for Dauphin County Bail fund with others organizing locally to end cash bail. I saw lots of familiar faces from my days working at the LGBT Center of Central PA and made a lot of new friends. A consistent experience I had was noticing that most people didn't have a strong understanding of why we were there--or what the cash bail system is, and how it harms our communities.

One person even told me that she didn't support our efforts to end cash bail because her daughter was addicted to drugs and needed to be in jail. Where to even begin with that kind

INSIDE:
Pennsylvania – Bail at a glance
Dauphin County Bail Fund – Who gets help?

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straight.



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policy, world affairs, analysis, art, theatre,
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INTERNATIONAL

BERLIN:

Teen arrested for allegedly plotting bomb attack

A German teenager was arrested on suspicion he was planning an Islamic extremist bombing attack in the Frankfurt area, prosecutors said Thursday, reported David Rising. Frankfurt prosecutors' spokesman Sinan Akdogan told The Associated Press the 17-year-old was arrested by Hesse state police Sept. 1 and ordered held by a judge on suspicion of preparing a serious act of violence. The information leading to the arrest, provided by the United States, indicated the suspect was planning to attack a gay nightclub in Frankfurt and a Catholic church in the city, according to an official with access to intelligence information, who discussed it on condition of anonymity. (AP)

INDIA:

Is gay culture global?



The Indian Supreme Court decriminalized homosexuality. A court in Trinidad and Tobago found colonial-era laws banning gay sex to be unconstitutional. And late last year, Australia became the umpteenth state to legalize same-sex marriage. There is a slow-motion avalanche going on. Thirty-five of the 63 Commonwealth countries, mostly in Africa or the West Indies, still make homosexual acts a criminal offence. Some countries, including Nigeria and Uganda, have even tightened their anti-gay laws. The ultra-conservative Malaysian state of Terengganu lashed two women six times with a cane and fined \$800 for 'trying to have sex'. - Gwynne Dyer

EUROPEAN UNION:

Global backlash against conversion "therapy"

Georgia Voice's Joshua Chen reports that LGBTQ identities have historically been misclassified due a "...combination of fear, stigma, and misunderstanding," said Dr. Jennifer Conti, a fellow at Physicians for Reproductive Health. In 2001, a report from then-U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher stated that "there is no valid scientific evidence that sexual orientation can be changed." Medical thought around the globe is changing as well. The European parliament recently denounced conversion therapy, calling EU members to ban the practice.

IRELAND:

From illegal to Prime Minister



In 2015, when Leo Varadkar was serving as Ireland's health minister, he came out as a gay man on national radio reports Siobhan O'Grady for *The Washington Post*. He said, "It's not something that defines me." Two-and-a-half years later, Varadkar, whose father was an Indian immigrant, was named prime minister. He is Ireland's first openly gay leader, the first leader from a minority background

and, at 38 at the time of his appointment, the country's youngest prime minister. Then Varadkar welcomed Pope Francis to Ireland, a nation that has radically changed since the last papal visit, in 1979. At that time, homosexuality was still a crime. Now, the country's prime minister is gay. (Photo: Pope Francis is welcomed by Leo Varadkar, Ireland's prime minister, at Dublin Castle during his visit to Ireland. - Vatican/Reuters)

GUATEMALA:

Anti-marriage-equality bill could pass Congress

An anti-marriage-equality bill could advance through Guatemala's unicameral Congress. Bill 5272, the Law to Protect Life and Family, explicitly forbids marriage equality (marriage is already defined in law as between a man and a woman), in direct contradiction of the January marriage-equality ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which is binding on Guatemala. The bill also effectively curtails the state's ability to promote sexual and reproductive health and education, effectively forbidding talk of sexuality not aligned with heterosexuality.

TAIWAN:

Gay marriage faces new hurdle with referendum



Conservative campaigners on Aug. 28 threw a roadblock in the path to legalising same-sex unions in Taiwan, proposing a public vote on the issue and saying any reforms would jeopardise "family values". Taiwan's top court ruled in May 2017 that preventing same-sex marriage was unconstitutional and gave a two-year deadline for its legalisation - which would make the island the first place in Asia to do so. But there has been little progress on the issue since then, with President Tsai Ing-wen saying society is still divided on the issue. (Photo: AFP/Sam Yeh)

NIGERIA:

Nigeria police arrest 57 men for having gay sex

Police in Nigeria have raided a hotel and arrested 57 men on suspicion of having gay sex reports Josh Jackman for *Pink News*. In Nigeria, people convicted of having gay sex can spend up to 14 years in prison - apart from in 12 northern states with Sharia law, where they are stoned to death. This is the second such police action this month, after six men in the south-eastern state of Abia were arrested in a hotel for the same reason.

85 COUNTRIES:

Governments using laws to silence lgbt civil society

OutRight Action International recently launched their latest report, *The Global State of LGBTI Organizing: The Right to Register*. The report highlights a phenomenon in which governments are trying to silence a growing movement for equality by preventing formation and registration of LGBTIQ civil society organizations. This has been happening amidst an intense crackdown and large-scale arrests of LGBTQ people around the globe over the last year in places like Russia, Egypt, Indonesia, Tanzania and more. The report finds that LGBTIQ organizations are unable to register or cannot be found in 85 of 194 countries. Maria Sjodin, Deputy Executive Director, OutRight Action International, comments on the report, "History shows that progress on LGBTIQ

rights have come through activism and visibility. When states suppress LGBTIQ organizations, they are really trying to stop LGBTIQ people from gaining basic human rights and equality."

SWITZERLAND:

Doctor says he can 'cure' homosexuality with pills

A doctor in Switzerland has come under fire for recommending a homeopathic conversion therapy treatment, reports Alex Bollinger. Jean-Yves Henry, a French doctor who practices medicine in Geneva, published an article on his website in 2009 about treating homosexuality with homeopathy. The article stresses that homosexuality is not a disease, but a symptom of a deeper problem of denying the differences between the sexes. "The homosexual believes that the difference between the sexes means nothing to him (there are two?!)," Henry wrote. "So homosexuality is an escape from the reality of the differences in the sexes that everyone must live with." Henry goes on to cite depression and suicide as possible results of homosexuality, never considering that perhaps it's homophobia that is more responsible for them. Henry's suggested treatment for male homosexuality is Argentum nitricum (for chronic infidelity), Pulsatilla (for immaturity), and Platina (for troubles related to seduction and domination). For lesbianism, the doctor recommends Lachesis (for domination and jealousy), Sepia (to accept one's femininity), and Natrum muriaticum (for anxiety and disliking being touched).

NATIONAL

God makes people gay to punish us



Ed Brayton reports for *Patheos* that most Christian right bigots argue that God is going to destroy us because we tolerate homosexuality, but "Coach" Dave Daubenmire says that's true, but that homosexuality itself IS God's punishment. The line from

the Princess Bride comes to mind: "Truly you have a dizzying intellect." Daubenmire said that "the devil has seized control of most of our churches" so that they now tolerate homosexuality, which has caused God to wash his hands of this nation and allow his judgment to fall on us. "Those homos are without excuse," Daubenmire bellowed. "[but] we give them an excuse. We say, 'Yeah, well, maybe God did make them that way.' See folks, that's the judgment of God ... God isn't going to judge America because of homosexuality, homosexuality is the judgement of God on America."

Farrah Fawcett's son accused of beating man



Graham Gremore reports that Redmond O'Neal, the son of the late Farrah Fawcett and Ryan O'Neal, is accused of attacking a man as he was walking down the street in Los Angeles, beating him with a glass bottle while shouting antigay slurs. Ken Fox explained

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Where were we going when we left the house?

Publisher's Voice



By Frank Pizzoli

Crazy-makers, like President Donald Trump, are energized by their whirlwind nonsense. Normal people are fatigued. Tediously high-maintenance individuals cannot stop themselves. Regular folks take naps.

Against a news cycle backdrop that sounded like a high school slam book, I drove to the Milford Readers and Writers Festival in Pike County. I mingled with Alan Alda, a feminist delight of my generation and Suzanne Braun Levine, co-founder of *Ms.* magazine with Gloria Steinem, who interviewed Alda on stage about many then/now topics. Steve Ruben, president and publisher of Henry Holt & Company, who recently published *The Fire and the Fury*, was there sagely taking in the proceedings.

With the Brett Kavanaugh hearings only one day before the festival commenced, *when will #metoo turn a corner?* was the question on everyone's lips. Perhaps not in my lifetime, although I hope so.

The Patriarchy owns the ground it grows in and the water that nourishes its millennial roots. Maybe that explains why Trump's Evangelical and political-base supporters cannot find an act by him or those he supports that makes them draw a line.

Could it be that die-in-the-wool Evangelicals practice Moral Relativity?

That makes them exactly like the Left Coast/ East coast snobs they deeply despise: They evaluate life with the tools

of Moral Relativity. For example, as long as someone is against abortion, they can overlook other positions or behaviors they might otherwise oppose. Does that mean a married queer couple who voted for Trump and is anti-abortion is acceptable to them?

Susan Faludi faced a similar emotional and political quagmire when her father completed his transition from male to female.

She and her father hadn't been in touch for decades, and, as Marilyn Rosenthal wrote for *The Pike County Courier* – "Imagine being a well-known feminist writer who rebelled against an abusive, sometimes violent macho father from whom she had been estranged for decades. Then imagine suddenly receiving an email from him saying, 'I have decided that I have had enough of impersonating a macho aggressive man that I have never been inside.'"

That's how Faludi learned of her father's gender reassignment surgery, when he was 76 years old. Her experience is also the subject of her well-known book, *In the Darkroom*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist and winner of the 2016 Kirkus Prize for non-fiction.

Faludi sees gender as being on a spectrum, Rosenthal writes, "and much more complicated than society's expectations are. Her father's transformation to transgender woman was an epiphany for her as both a daughter and a feminist writer and journalist."

And if you're involved in the ongoing affairs of the LGBT activism and advocacy, gender identity is as fluid as ever. That fluidity isn't okay with everyone.

Last Fall, the Transgender Law Center program honored the lives of the 14 Black transgender women who are known to have been killed in 2018. They make up the majority of the 20 trans women who have been reported dead due to homicide this year. Samantha Allen has reported for *The Daily Beast* that 2017 saw 28 reported killings of transgender people in the U.S. As of June, this year's grim total is 14 with more trans deaths under investigation that could make that

number higher.

Still at the intersection of gender and race is Mary Badham, who played Scout opposite Gregory Peck in the 1962 seminal film *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The racial themes still resonate while there is a growing sense that no amount reforms matter. The only reform is for the United States to come clean and admit its history. That American Exceptionalism and wealth was (and in many ways still is) based on the misery of slavery and all its current manifestations – for example, school to prison du jour policies and the growing privatization of Federal and state government contracts that keep the downtrodden down. Bail programs that favor the privileged, thwart the poor (See *Cash Bail: Is it a queer issue?* by Louie Marven, p. 1)

To Suzanne Braun Levine, co-founder with Gloria Steinem, of *Ms.* magazine, and the first female editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, the world today must look like the classic movie *From Here to Eternity* – and back again. When she asked Alan Alda the one thing he wanted us to know about him he said, "I'm not the angel you think I am. I'm also not a devil." That may be most of us.

When Gore Vidal said, "There was no such thing as gay – only gay sexual acts." Was the cranky sage anticipating the state of affairs in gay land these days? So many men who report sex with men also include "no parades, no rainbows". They like penis, I guess, just not homosexuals.

Tim Teeman, author of *In Bed with Gore Vidal: Hustlers, Hollywood, and the Private World of an American Master* cajoled with author Sean Strub, both of whom knew Vidal. Over dinner Teeman, *The Daily Beast*, extolled both Vidal's virtues and warts. We agreed we respected his monumental contributions to our world but that we wouldn't have liked him socially.

Indeed, when you leave home with a certain set of ideas you may return with new thoughts. Where were we going when we left the house?

Voice Box

Readers comment on The Central Voice Newspaper of the Year multiple awards

Great News!!! Way to go!
Todd Evans, Rivendell- the LGBT Media Company

Frank, you and your team have so much to be proud of! This is a well-deserved tribute to excellent journalism.
Bob Witeck, President, Witeck Communications

Amen to that, indeed, Bob Witeck. Congrats and equally important, thanks for what you do for everyone in our community and those who support us.
Diego Miguel Sanchez, APR, Director of Advocacy, Policy & Partnerships, PFLAG National / Straight for Equality

Wow! Congratulations, Frank! You and The Central Voice are amazing.
Alan Kennedy-Shaffer, Harrisburg Hope founder

I am so proud of you and this recognition. You are a treasure and this is a well-deserved recognition for you and your team's exceptional work.
Rosemary Browne, CEO, Alder Health Services

the Central Voice

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Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs: Why we need it



By Michael Mahler, Erie Gay News

Gov. Tom Wolf is to be commended for creating the nation's first statewide Commission on LGBTQ Affairs on August 6.

Why is such a commission needed? LGBTQ communities around the state are often unaware of what is going on in the various other regions in Pennsylvania. Being aware of what is going on elsewhere may help regions formulate their own strategies, or tap into resources that they

might not have been aware of.

I believe that probably most LGBTQ organizations and resources would like to improve their connections with non-LGBTQ resources and systems in their own geographic community, so being able to compare notes with other regions would be helpful.

In addition, by having so many different regions of the state represented, that may make it clearer which regions currently do not have adequate resources for LGBTQ people. We can

then begin to develop methods and resources to address those shortcomings.

We can hopefully strategize and coordinate efforts to pass anti-discrimination and other needed legislation on the state level that Pennsylvania has lacked for too long.

Having a statewide LGBTQ resource directory and also a calendar of major events would also be worthy tasks to take on.

Is America on the verge of a civil war?

By Victor Davis Hanson

Americans keep dividing into two hostile camps.

It seems the country is back to 1860 on the eve of the Civil War, rather than in 2018, during the greatest age of affluence, leisure and freedom in the history of civilization.

The ancient historian Thucydides called the civil discord that tore apart the fifth-century B.C. Greek city-states “stasis.” He saw stasis as a bitter civil war between the revolutionary masses and the traditionalist middle and upper classes.

Something like that ancient divide is now infecting every aspect of American life.

Americans increasingly are either proud of past U.S. traditions, ongoing reform and current American exceptionalism or they insist that the country was hopelessly flawed at its birth and must be radically reinvented to rectify its original sins.

No sphere of life is immune from the subsequent politicization: not movies, television, professional sports, late-night comedy or colleges. Even hurricanes are typically leveraged to advance political agendas.

What is causing America to turn differences into these bitter hatreds — and why now?

The internet and social media often descend into an electronic lynch mob. In a nanosecond, an insignificant local news story goes viral. Immediately hundreds of millions of people use it to drum up the evils or virtues of either progressivism or conservatism.

Anonymity is a force multiplier of these tensions. Fake online identities provide cover for ever-greater extremism — on the logic that no one is ever called to account for his or her words.

Speed is also the enemy of common sense and restraint. Millions of bloggers rush to be the first to post their take on a news event, without much worry about whether it soon becomes a “fake news” moment of unsubstantiated gossip and

fiction.

Globalization has both enriched and impoverished — and also further divided — America. Those whose muscular labor could be outsourced abroad to less expensive, less regulated countries were liable to lose their jobs or find their wages slashed. They were written off as “losers.” Americans whose professional expertise profited from vast new world markets became even richer and preened as “winners.”

Geography — history's intensifier of civil strife — further fueled the growing economic and cultural divide. Americans are increasingly self-selecting as red and blue states.

Liberals gravitate to urban coastal-corridor communities of hip culture, progressive lifestyles and lots of government services.

Conservatives increasingly move to the lower-tax, smaller-government and more traditional heartland.

Lifestyles in San Francisco and Toledo are so different that it's almost as if they're two different planets.

Legal, diverse, meritocratic and measured immigration has always been America's great strength. Assimilation, integration and intermarriage within the melting pot used to turn new arrivals into grateful Americans in a generation or two.

But when immigration is often illegal, not diverse and massive, then Balkanization follows. Currently, the country hosts 60 million non-natives — the largest number of immigrants in America's history.

Yet unlike in the past, America often does not ask new immigrants to learn English and assimilate as quickly as possible. Immigration is instead politicized. Newcomers are seen as potentially useful voting blocs.

Tribalism is the new American norm. Gender, sexual orientation, religion, race and ethnicity are now essential, not incidental, to who we are.

Americans scramble to divide into victimized blocs. Hyphenated and newly accented names serve as advertisements that particular groups have unique affili-



In today's political climate, even hurricanes are leveraged to advance agendas. Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Roselló, U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump discuss relief efforts after Hurricane Maria last year. Trump later called storm response in Puerto Rico, where nearly 3,000 died, 'One of the best.'

(U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY STAFF SGT MICHELLE Y. ALVAREZ-REA)

ations beyond their shared Americanism.

America is often the target of unrealistic criticism — as if it is suddenly toxic because it is not perfect. Few appreciate that the far worse alternatives abroad are rife with racism, sexism, civil strife, corruption and poverty unimaginable in the U.S.

The last few elections added to the growing abyss.

The old Democratic Party of John Kennedy and Bill Clinton is now trending into a radical democratic socialist party. Meanwhile, the old Republican Party is mostly gone, replaced by tea party movements and the new Donald Trump base.

Former President Barack Obama came into office from Congress with the most left-wing voting record in the Senate. Trump was elected as the first president without either prior military or political experience.

Obama issued dozens of controversial “pen and phone” executive orders,

bypassing Congress. And Trump is systematically overturning them — doing so with similar executive orders.

Will America keep dividing and soon resort to open violence, as happened in 1861? Or will Americans reunite and bind up our wounds, as we did following the upheavals of the 1930s Great Depression or after the protests of the 1960s?

The answer lies within each of us.

Every day we will either treat each other as fellow Americans, with far more uniting than dividing us, or we will continue on the present path that eventually ends in something like a hate-filled Iraq, Rwanda or the Balkans.

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of the soon-to-be released “The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won,” to appear in October from Basic Books.

OPINION:

Middletown needs to pass ordinance protecting LGBTQ residents

We are writing in gratitude and speaking to the hesitation regarding the proposed action to protect the rights of the LGBTQ population here in Middletown.

As a married, lesbian couple, who own homes in and reside in Middletown with our children, we are deeply affected by the proposal of protection of our rights ... as are our children.

We have faced discrimination and ridicule as a result of our sexual orientation on more than one occasion. We have suffered property damage to one of our homes and one of our vehicles. We have been called derogative and hateful names by people in our community, in a public forum, on more than one occasion. We have even been belittled by a prominent and well-known family within the community in one of the most public forums possible... in front of our children and our friends and our friends' children.

We have been denied access to local businesses and services as a result of our marriage. We have had to contact

the police for protection as a result of the actions of others on more than one occasion.

Not only have we had to do this for ourselves ... which is hard enough ... but we have had to do this for our children.

That is the hardest part: knowing that our children face open ridicule and torment as a result of the fact that they have two mothers and that without the protection of ordinances and laws there is no safety net to protect them from such words and actions.

As it stands right now, if we were not to own our homes, we could easily be evicted just for being a homosexual couple. Thankfully, we do own two homes in Middletown and would not face this awful truth but it is very much a reality for our friends and neighbors.

As it stands right now, we have been and will continue to be denied basic access to businesses and services within our own community — the community that we have supported and lived in for

many years.

As it stands right now, we have no formal protection.

We understand how important cultural and religious views are to everyone. They are just as important to us.

However, we cannot imagine that the community in which we live that our neighbors and friends would want us or anyone like us to face the kind of ridicule and hatred that we have had to face.

Enacting a protection of rights ordinance in the town will not harm anyone. Enacting a protection of rights ordinance in the town can only help those of us who have already faced the very real and very painful actions of others and allow us the same protection that heterosexual couples are afforded in Middletown.

We love Middletown. We are as ingrained in this community as any other couple/family is. One of us has grown up in Middletown from birth. We have raised our children here and have watched them excel and thrive within the outstanding

Middletown community/school system.

We believe that this community is, on the whole, a community that bands together to support one another. We believe that this community is, on the whole, a community that promotes love and acceptance.

We have Blue Raider pride just as much so, maybe more so, than our neighbors as we are parents of several of them. However, the ignorance and hurtful words and actions that are bred out of the fear of the unknown or misunderstood is also present in our wonderful town.

A proposed ordinance in Middletown that would ban discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity has not been discussed since 2017. We ask that borough council please consider moving forward with this ordinance.

Shannon Hopple-Rico
Middletown

POLITICAL UPDATES from page 3

that he was minding his own business while walking down the street to his neighborhood laundry back in May when 33-year-old O'Neal approached him. He was carrying a bottle wrapped in a paper bag. "What are you looking at," O'Neal allegedly said, before calling Fox an antigay slur. Next, Fox claims O'Neal charged at him. He bashed Fox in the face with the bottle, breaking his nose and knocking him to the ground.

American Catholic leaders blame gays for sex abuse



While the Pope expresses "shame and sorrow" over a grand jury report that found that 300 "predator priests" in the Catholic Church had sexually abused over 1000 children, the Catholic

League in the U.S. is trying to downplay the accusations, reports Alex Bollinger for *LGBTQ Nation*. Bill Donohue of the Catholic League was doing his best to "debunk" the report. He published a document that disproves "myths" around the grand jury report, insisting multiple times that the Pennsylvania attorney general just "wanted to shame the Catholic Church" with the report. One of the myths he debunked was the idea that children were raped. "This is an obscene lie. Most of the alleged victims were not raped: they were groped or otherwise abused, but not penetrated, which is what the word 'rape' means," Donohue wrote. He also called out the "myth" that the priests here are pedophiles. Instead, he wrote, they are gay men. "There have been two scandals related to the sexual abuse of minors in the Catholic Church. Scandal I involves the enabling bishops who covered it up. Scandal II involves the media cover-up of the role played by gay molesters," he wrote. (See page 18 for in depth look at this issue.)

Drag Queen Story Hour 'putting fingers in the eyes of God'



Drag Queen Story Hour is pretty much exactly as it sounds: a drag queen shows up to the library (or another appropriate spot) to read children's books to kids. Most of the titles have to do with be-

ing different or unique in some way, much like the personalities reading the books. The hostess usually wears glitter, makeup, high heels, and anything else in fashion. Recently on *The 700 Club*, *LGBTQ Nation* reports, Robertson shared his concerns over drag queens and their effect on human nature as we know it. "I think that's what we're trying to do is stick our fingers in God's eyes and say, 'Okay Lord, you thought you were making people men and women, that's what the Bible says, but we're going to fix it so that we're going to confuse the sexes, we're going to confuse everything that you're doing and then we're going to murder... if we have offspring as a result of our sexual activity out of marriage, we're going to kill the offspring,'" Robertson said on his televangelist show.

Adoption agency closes because they can't discriminate

LGBT Nation reports the Catholic Charities of Buffalo is ending its adoption program, citing New York's ban on discrimination as the reason. The organization has a contract with the Erie County Department of Social Services to place children in foster and adoptive families. State law in New York does not allow contracting organizations to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Catholic Charities of Buffalo, though, said that placing children in homes with same-sex couples is not "consistent with the teaching of the church." A same-sex couple approached the agency recently to ap-

ply to become foster parents. The agency said that this led to its decision to end all adoption and foster services. "The Catholic Church holds that the only marriage is between a man and a woman," said Sister Mary McCarrick, Catholic Charities diocesan director, to explain why the organization wants to discriminate.

Trump administration signals that it'll look the other way



Alex Bollinger reports that a new directive from the Department of Labor encourages the government to allow federal contractors to discriminate against LGBTQ people more.

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) at the Department of Labor issued a directive that asked investigators to take religious exemptions into account. Specifically, the directive tells OFCCP staff: They "cannot act in a manner that passes judgment upon or presupposes the illegitimacy of religious beliefs and practices" and must "proceed in a manner neutral toward and tolerant of ... religious beliefs." They cannot "condition the availability of [opportunities] upon a recipient's willingness to surrender his [or her] religiously impelled status." "[A] federal regulation's restriction on the activities of a for-profit closely held corporation must comply with [the Religious Freedom Restoration Act]." They must permit "faith-based and community organizations, to the fullest opportunity permitted by law, to compete on a level playing field for ... [Federal] contracts." They must respect the right of "religious people and institutions ... to practice their faith without fear of discrimination or retaliation by the Federal Government." The Department of Labor has also removed information about protections from discrimination and how narrow the religious exemptions are.



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GREAT ENDING

Two gay high school athletes found strength together

By Sarah Toce
LGBTQ Nation

It's the high school ending some of us wish we always had. For Hunter Sigmund and Jake Bain, it actually happened.

Sigmund was a gay swimmer who felt isolated because of his sexuality. Bain was a football player who was ridiculed on the field for being gay.

As Sigmund wrote in *Outsports*, "Instead of assimilating with a horde of generic high school boys, I decided that being alone was the best option. For months, I locked myself in my bedroom, initially feeling relieved that I no longer had to fake an identity to fit in."

Except that didn't ever actually work for Sigmund.

"Being isolated from all social interaction did not relieve my insecurities," he wrote. "Instead, it added to them, because I still felt that I was being forced to hide myself from the world."

That's when September 4, 2016 happened.

"On that day, I was at a Labor Day party, surrounded by my classmates and closest friends. Jake was sitting on a rocky ledge by the pool," Sigmund wrote.

"When I saw him sitting there, I felt an immediate urge to go over," Sigmund recalled. "He had been in my position before. He had dealt with countless insecurities, yet he had overcome them all with a bright smile on his face."

The two hit it off and talked for hours that very evening, "and as of today, Jake and I have talked every day for two years," he wrote.

Adding, "After years of trying to suppress my sexuality and the pain associated with my fear of coming out, I felt freed."

Bain began spending more time at the pool so that he could watch Sigmund work his magic.

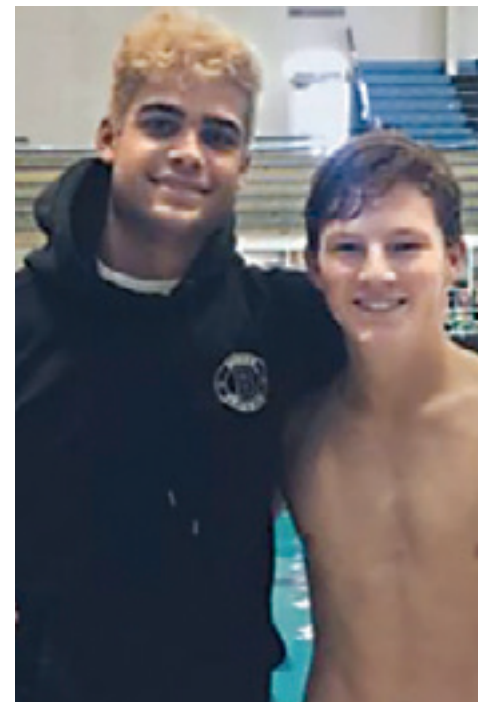
Sigmund began the coming out process to his closest family and friends over the course of the next month.

Many of them already knew. "Before I even had the chance to tell my teammates, many of them approached me and pulled me aside to assure me of their unconditional support," he wrote.

He did feel wary about telling a few people, though. His coaches at the Christian academy.

"My coaches, specifically Leslie Kehr and Ashley Boesch, were two of the most influential and supportive people during my Burroughs career," Sigmund wrote.

"Before coming out to Coach Kehr, I



Jake Bain and Hunter Sigmund.

was very intimidated; she had deep ties to Westminster Academy in St. Louis, a Christian school that was extremely religious," he said.

In fact, "when Jake played a football game against Westminster, numerous players shouted 'stay down, faggot' to him on the field when he had been tackled."

To Sigmund's surprise, Coach Kehr was fully supportive.

Swimming that year could have quite possibly saved Sigmund's life.

"Before September 4, 2016, I had used swimming as an escape route," he wrote. "I had treated swim practice as a way to manage my stress and relieve my internal chaos. Swimming was my chance to escape reality for a few hours."

However, after coming out – things were even better.

"Once I came out, I felt liberated," he wrote. "I no longer felt an unbearable burden on my back in the water, but instead felt free and untethered."

He even broke a few records that year.

"With the support of my coaches, teammates and Jake, I shattered all my personal records during my final swim season," he wrote.

Adding, "I qualified for the state championships in the 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay and 400 Free Relay, and earned the title of 'All-State Honorable Mention' in the 400 Free Relay after placing 14th in the state."

This kid's the real deal. And he keeps proving it.

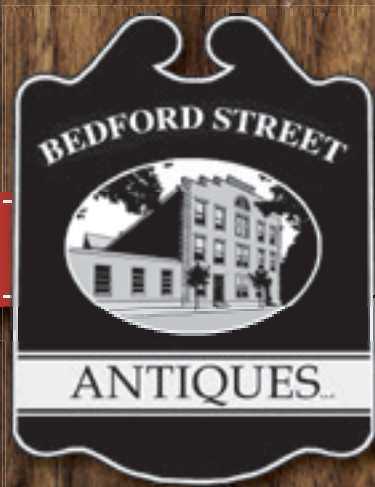
"To all of those out there who are too afraid to come out, I understand," he wrote. "...know that you are not a mistake because of who you love."

Adding, "Embrace your individuality, and know that there is an army of people who will unconditionally support you. Hang in there, and know that I, along with so many others, will stand with you no matter what."

Upcoming Events

November 16th, 17th & 18th
Native American Indian
Jewelry Show

December 2nd
Holiday Open House



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Ready for the holidays?

Once again, we approach the end of the year. Once again, we remark, “I can’t believe it’s the end of the year!” Why? It’s not like we don’t know the order of the months, or how many months are on the calendar.

As we age the years seem to become shorter. To a six-year-old one year is 16 percent of her entire life. But to the sixty-year-old, one year is a not even two percent. It’s all about perception.

The winter holidays ahead will be joyous and merry for some. For others, however, it may bring up divisions and conflict. But if we understand that these holidays are all based on the same reason we can have a better concept of how “Happy Holidays” isn’t an attack on “Merry Christmas, or “Happy Hanukkah, later which, by the way, in Hebrew is “Chag Sameach!” It simply means, “Happy Holiday.” Kind of ironic when you think about it. Here’s what we’re really celebrating.

The Season of Light

The winter holiday (“holiday” originally meant “Holy Day”) season, is a Season of Lights. As our part of the earth moves toward the shorter days and longer nights we find ourselves immersed in a wide variety of celebrations from various cultures, religions, and philosophies — all based on Light. From the oldest of the holy days, Yule, to the newest one, Kwanzaa, light plays a significant role.

...if we understand that these holidays are all based on the same reason, we can have a better concept of how “Happy Holidays” isn’t an attack...

Yule is one of four minor observances in a group of eight holidays known in the Old Religion as sabbats, or Days of Power. Yule coincides with the Winter Solstice. At this time of the year we have the least daylight. This same period also marks the time when the days start a six-month period of lengthening, culminating with the Summer Solstice. In 273 C.E. the Church designated December 25 as the day to celebrate Jesus’ birth. This coincided with the Roman gift-giving holiday of Saturnalia and Yule. It is a time of new hope, new beginnings, new life, and a new light.

Kwanzaa or Kwanza, is a secular seven-day festival in celebration of the African heritage of African Americans which begins on December 26. It was developed in the U.S. by Maulana Karenga and first observed in 1966. Kwanzaa is based in part on traditional African harvest festivals but particularly emphasizes the role of the family and community in African-American culture. Each day is dedicated to a principle (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity,

Making Sense of Life



By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

and faith), and on each day one of the candles on a seven-branched candelabrum is lighted. The celebration also includes the giving of gifts and a karamu, or African feast.

Another type of candelabrum will be lit in Jewish households all over the globe. Chanukah (Hanukkah) is an eight-day festival beginning on the 25th day of Kislev (or this year on Sunday, December 2 after sundown) and commemorates the victory in 165 B.C.E. of the Maccabees over Antiochus Epiphanes and the rededication of the Temple at Jerusalem. Also called Feast of Dedication or Feast of Lights, it recalls the story of how God kept the lamps of this small band of freedom fighters lit for a full eight days until they could gain victory over their oppressors. Even though they only had enough oil for one day, God rewarded their faith by multiplying their small supply many times over.

Finally, there’s Christmas! We celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth on December 25, though it’s generally accepted among Biblical scholars that Jesus was more likely born around the beginning of October, probably October 4 or 5. Regardless of the ongoing debate about the commercialism of Christmas and the need to put “Christ back in Christmas,” it is, nonetheless, another celebration of light. As the “Light of the World,” the message of Jesus is as clear today as it was nearly 2,000 years ago: Love, Acceptance, and Truth.

Opening our minds and hearts to the beliefs of others helps create unity. My wish for you at this time of the year is to be in love. I’m not talking necessarily about being in love with someone in particular, though if you are that’s absolutely wonderful. What I’m talking about is being in the state of love. Of being in love, seeing love as a state of mind, an ongoing experience, a presence. To be in love, to connect with the Divine Essence of who we truly are and with everyone around us is the ultimate expression of the holidays. May you experience joy this season and a prosperous new year!

Terry is an award-winning author and, speaker. Read his weekly blog at Central Voice online or on his website at: blog.terrydrewkaranen.com. He is also the director of Spirit, Mind and Body Foundation (spiritmindbodyfoundation.org).

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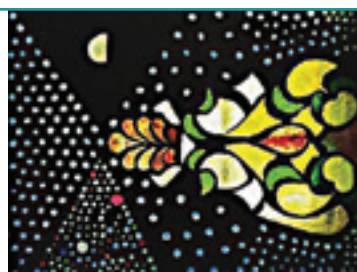
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Art Association of
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Upcoming Events



November 10th, 6-8:30 pm:
Psychic Gallery with William Stillman
AAH Main Gallery
\$25 ADVANCE & \$30 AT DOOR

Through November 21st:
"FLUX": Experimental art by Brittany Kurtinecz & "Edges of Light," photos & poetry by Wendy Palmer & Kimberly Myers, PhD

November 30th-January 3rd:
"REALIZED," Installations by Kelly Curran, Hannah Dobek, Chad Whitaker & Reina Wooden

- Reception November 30th, 5-8 pm
- Music by Jonathan Frazier

December 8th, 5-8 pm:
"Islay House" Holiday Soirée

Hosted by Scott & Carrie Wissler-Thomas with Robert Potter
\$55 ADVANCE, \$60 AT DOOR

December 16th, 1-3 pm:
2nd Annual Christmas Tea Party

AAH Main Gallery
\$30, ADVANCE RESERVATIONS RQD



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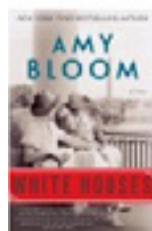
Do you enjoy reading books on your smart phone or on a tablet? The Dauphin County Library has lots of titles to enjoy for those who like reading on electronic devices. Check out the titles available through the library's OverDrive service—www.dcls.org/ebooks. Don't care to read on a tablet? Don't worry, each title is also available in print. But in case you do like to read using an electronic device, you're bound to find even more titles to enjoy through our OverDrive service, and all you need is your library card. Remember, the Dauphin County Library System is a great place to start your journey for great reading.

Dauphin County Library Book Reviews



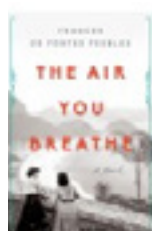
By Yvonne Carmichael

White Houses by Amy Bloom



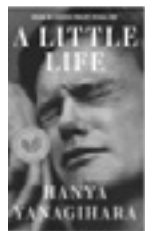
"Lorena" Hick" Hickok was a hard-boiled newspaper reporter, but she showed her tender side to the love of her life, Eleanor Roosevelt. In this new novel by the acclaimed author of Lucky Us, Hick tells her story in her own brash voice. By the time Eleanor meets her in 1932, Hick is a respected AP reporter. Hick moves into the White House, taking a job in the Roosevelt administration. The novel is told from Hickok's perspective, opening with her childhood and eventually intertwining her life and the First Lady's as we are taken behind the scenes at the White House, where Hickok lived." (From Library Journal)

The Air You Breathe, by Frances de Pontes Peebles



"Both born in Brazil in 1920, Does and Graca are from different stations and have different gifts: Does is an intensely intelligent and ambitious orphan who works as a servant on a sugar plantation; Graca is the plantation owner's charismatic and beautiful daughter, who has a remarkable singing voice. After forming a bond over music, the two girls begin to write samba songs together and form a successful partnership. But their relationship is fraught with jealousy and frustration and eventually fractures. The book is narrated from the present day, with Does's recollections conveying the increasingly complex nature of the friendship as they pursued fame: codependency, mutual envy, their love for the same man, and (eventually) the revelation of Does' unrequited love for Graca." (From Publishers Weekly)

A Little Life, by Hanya Yanagihara



This starts like a "deceptively simple tale of four male friends, Jude, Willem, Malcolm, and JB, who meet during their college years at Ivy League institutions. The men choose to continue their journeys into adulthood together by relocating jointly to New York. As they sustain their friendships into their fifties, the author delivers tales of their loyalty, love, and support for one another. However, lying beneath the surface is an emotionally disturbing story line about Jude, a highly successful lawyer and the brightest of the four men. The horrors of Jude's victimization during his youth by the brothers of a monastery and his eventual abduction by Brother Luke, a pedophile and pimp, force him to struggle relentlessly with inner demons and a deep-seated distrust of others, with his pain manifested in constant acts of cutting." (From Library Journal)

Bettyville, by George Hodgman



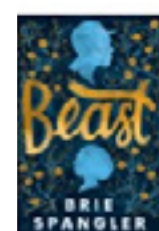
"A witty, tender memoir of a son's journey home to care for his irascible mother—a tale of secrets, silences, and enduring love. When George Hodgman leaves Manhattan for his hometown of Paris, Missouri, he finds himself—an unlikely caretaker and near-lethal cook—in a head-on collision with his aging mother. Betty, who speaks her mind but cannot quite reveal her heart, has never really accepted the fact that her son is gay. As these two unforgettable characters try to bring their different worlds together, Hodgman reveals the challenges of Betty's life and his own struggle for self-respect, moving readers from their small town—crumbling but still colorful—to the star-studded corridors of Vanity Fair." (Provided by publisher)

Been Here All Along, by Sandy Hall



This young adult novel is "an endearing and heartwarming narrative that is realistic and reflective. Kyle and Gideon have happily been best friends and next-door neighbors for much of their lives. However, Gideon unexpectedly develops romantic feelings for Kyle but is unsure as to how to proceed because Kyle is currently in a long-term relationship with Ruby. Told from each character's first-person perspective, the novel presents the complicated process of self-discovery, social acceptance, and, ultimately, love. Readers follow Kyle, Gideon, and Ruby as they attempt to navigate unfamiliar terrain that could jeopardize their current relationships." (From School Library Journal)

The Beast, by Brie Spangler



This "thought-provoking novel [is] about two shunned teens who struggle to make sense of the world and themselves. At nearly six foot four and covered with hair, 15-year-old Dylan Ingvarsson has been nicknamed the Beast, but he doesn't feel like one. Mostly, he leads a quiet life, earning top grades in his class and supporting his widowed mother. When Dylan breaks his leg falling off a roof, perhaps not entirely accidentally, and ends up in therapy for self-harmers, he meets an intriguing girl named Jamie, a talented photographer, who seems to like Dylan for who he is. For the first time, Dylan finds himself falling in love, but then he learns something he missed while he was zoning out in therapy: Jamie is trans." (From Publishers Weekly)

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An abstract artwork consisting of a grid of squares. The squares are arranged in a pattern that resembles a woven fabric or a quilt. The colors are primarily blue and red, with some squares appearing as a mix of the two, creating a textured, almost three-dimensional effect. The overall composition is symmetrical and balanced.

Color Improvisations 2 is a special invitational exhibition of contemporary quilts curated by Nancy Crow, one of the most celebrated and influential quiltmakers of the past forty years. This iteration of the exhibition will include 18 large, improvisational quilts by 18 artists from Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, and the United States.

Contemporary quiltmakers have unprecedented control over their materials. If they can't find the fabric they want commercially, from the over ninety companies that currently manufacture fabrics specifically designed for their use, they can make their own, by coloring, patterning, and structuring fiber and fabric with a host of surface design techniques, including dyeing, applying resists, painting, printing, stamping, stenciling, and even embellishing with beads or other materials.



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parts, one at a time, out of fabric and then pinning/working vertically on a huge wall. This requires strong engineering abilities coupled with common sense to put sometimes hundreds, if not thousands, of parts together by sewing each to the next. Unlike painting, fabric colors, shapes, and lines are not brushed on or glued together, but sewn together. And to be able to cut parts, shapes, and lines by eye and then to manage color and value demands hours and hours of practice. The quilt-maker's eye must be able to coordinate infinite calibrations with the muscle control of hand, wrist, and arm. The entire operation is physical and requires strength. It takes obsessiveness, intensity, practice, practice, practice, and a great eye."

This exhibition was coordinated by Color Improvisations 2, NA. It is made possible at the Susquehanna Art Museum thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Carole DeSoto Foundation.



2018- 2019 SEASON

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Fabulous FAB honorees announced

The FAB (Fall Achievement Benefit) event is a vital source of funding for the LGBT Center of Central PA to foster inclusive communities and holistic well-being for LGBTQ+ people through social, educational, and cultural engagement.

This year's FAB was held October 6 in Lancaster where area civic leaders and organizations were honored. Congratulations to the following:

Amber Hikes



As Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs in Philadelphia, Amber Hikes has had an impact that reaches much farther than the city limits. In this role, Amber has set

her sights on advocating for the most vulnerable populations within the LGBTQ+ community - specifically youth, elders, transgender people, and people of color. In her first year leading the office, Amber helped facilitate an international conversation about race and discrimination in the LGBTQ+ community with the addition of black and brown stripes to the rainbow flag. The #MoreColorMorePride flag and the accompanying campaign has spread across the state, the country, and around the world - drawing attention to the need for intentional inclusion of LGBTQ+ people of color in our movement. Amber believes in employing an intersectional lens in all aspects of community work and leans daily on the words of sister Audre Lorde: "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, because we do not live single-issue lives."

Dr. Arthur Williams



In 1998, as the AIDS crisis grew to epidemic proportions, Dr. Arthur Williams II left his career in oncology and devoted his specialty time and training to HIV. In 2002, he became the

medical director of Hamilton Health Center's HOPE program, providing evidence-based care to HIV patients in Harrisburg. Dr. Williams is the only African American HIV specialist providing care in Central PA. As a well-known HIV/AIDS expert, he conducts educational seminars both locally and nationally. In 2005, Dr. Williams was a featured speaker on the CDC's international web conference on AIDS, where he presented his model HIV Medication Adherence Program. He was one of three physicians who helped revise the state's ADAP formulary, which expanded funds to cover HIV medications. He has participated in many clinical trials, and recently completed his own on a successful

daily regimen for African Americans and Hispanics. In 2015, Dr. Williams was appointed Chief Medical Officer for Hamilton Health Center.

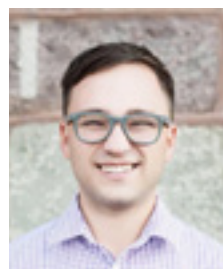
Dr. Rebecca Cox-Davenport



Dr. Cox-Davenport has been a faithful volunteer with the Common Roads program in Lancaster since March 2017, rarely missing a Friday evening. She goes above and beyond, bringing

homemade baked goods each week and getting to know the youth individually. She has helped them go apartment hunting, brought them care packages when they're recovering from surgery, and chaperoned Center events like the Safe Space Prom and the trip to Trans Wellness Conference. Dr. Cox-Davenport has worked with LGBTQ+ youth for almost two decades. She was the GSA advisor at Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina, and worked as a nurse educator in a teen outreach in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is currently an assistant professor at Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences in Lancaster.

Louie Marven



The LGBT Center would not be where it is today without Louie Marven's outstanding leadership and personal dedication. He gave nearly a decade of his life to the Center, first as

Youth Programs Director and then as Executive Director. During his tenure, Common Roads merged with the LGBT Center, the current physical space at 1306 N. 3rd St. opened, key funding sources were secured, and the LGBT History Project was created. Louie developed programs to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ youth, young adults, and older adults, and provided training on a wide range of LGBTQ+ topics. His leadership brought the Center through both exciting and challenging times with thoughtfulness and humor, and he built partnerships that continue to serve the Center well today. Louie's legacy is making the vision for the Center a reality, and establishing it as the community hub for resources, connection, and support. He now works as a Training Specialist with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, developing resources and providing training and technical assistance around serving male survivors.

Barry Loveland, Sharon Potter, Michelle Simmons, Melinda Eash



In honor of the 25th anniversary of Common Roads, we will also be recognizing the vision and dedication of these four individ-

uals who founded and provided leadership to this important program. Creating affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth in Central PA to connect with one another and find support is so vital, and this program has been doing that since 1993 - impacting an untold number of youth over that time. The program continues to thrive today because of the foundational work that each of these individuals have done, with weekly meetings in

Harrisburg and Lancaster, an annual GSA Leadership Summit, support for GSA's throughout the region, and additional youth events. These individuals paved the way, in a time with much less visibility and support for LGBTQ+ youth, and we honor them for that.

The Central Voice is Media Sponsor of the 2018 FAB Awards.

Senate confirms Shanker to the PA Human Relations Commission



Shanker

On October 1st, 2018, the Pennsylvania State Senate voted 49-0 to confirm Adrian Shanker, Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, to serve as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Governor Tom Wolf nominated Shanker in June.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission promotes equal opportunity for all and enforces Pennsylvania's civil rights laws that protect people from unlawful discrimination.

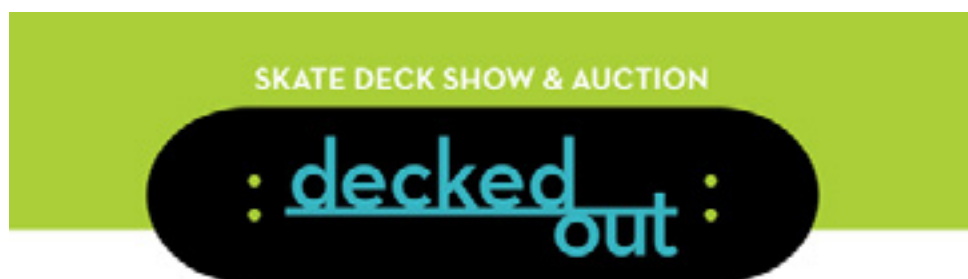
Shanker has previously served for three years on the Human Relations Commission of the City of Allentown (2009-2012), led the effort to establish the Human Relations Commission in the City of Bethlehem, and while serving as President of Equality Pennsylvania from 2011-2013, he worked with numerous municipal bodies in south east PA to assist them in passing their local human

relations ordinances.

Shanker's appointment to PHRC is a voluntary position, he continues his leadership as Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. He also serves, at Governor Wolf's appointment, on the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, and in addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Pennsylvania and on the Board of the Non-Profit & Business Partners Council of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Upon learning of his confirmation by the Pennsylvania State Senate, Shanker stated, "I am humbled by the confidence in me from Governor Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania State Senate. The work of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission is critical to ensure that all Pennsylvanians are able to live, work, and learn free from discrimination. That's a goal all fair-minded Pennsylvanians share, and I am honored to have been confirmed to this position."

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center provides arts, health, youth, and pride programs to strengthen and support the LGBT community across the Greater Lehigh Valley.



York's arts organization offers Decked Out

This year The Parliament Arts Organization's Decked Out takes place over the course of three days, Nov. 7-9, at the Central PA industrial-chic venue, The Bond on 134 E. King St in Downtown York. Doors open at 10am on November 7 and will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am-10pm.

There will be over 200 hand-painted, collaged, and manipulated skate decks

created by artists all over Central PA. Every evening there will be live music while you come check out the decks. You'll be able to bid on the decks Wednesday - Friday, so be sure to keep track of your favorite deck throughout the week. If you want to come view the show and grab a bite to eat we will be hosting Food Truck Friday to kick off your weekend!

ANYBODY CARE?

Milo Yiannopolis has epic meltdown on Facebook

LGBT Nation's Alex Bollinger reports that gay white supremacist Milo Yiannopolis exploded on Facebook recently because one of his fans asked him to do his job.

A fan named Karen Taylor saw the above post of Milo eating a live crab and asked a rather innocent question: "Guessing this lifestyle is why you're not doing your promised podcasts and losing subscribers. Where did our old Milo go?"

Being asked to do the work that people paid him for, though, was too big of an insult. Milo put the rabble in their place with a rant.

"For my trouble, I have lost everything standing up for the truth in America, spent all my savings, destroyed all my friendships, and ruined my whole life. At some point, you realize it's occasionally better to spend the money on crabs and cocktails."

"Over the past three years, I have spent literally millions of dollars trying to do talks, speeches, events, rallies and protests, to say nothing of all the stuff I do behind the scenes I can never tell you about. A lot of that money was my own wealth, from before I even started in journalism.

"My events almost never happen. It's protests, or sabotage from Republican competitors or social media outcries. Every time, it costs me tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. And when I get dumped from conferences, BARELY ANYONE makes a sound about it — not my fellow conservative media figures and not even, in many cases, you guys. When was the last time any of you protested in the street at the treatment meted out to me or Pamela Gellar or Mike Cernovich or Alex Jones?

"I have repeatedly put myself in harm's way in service of American values. My annual security bill amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars — just so my husband and I don't get killed going for sushi. I have to make that money somehow just to stay afloat, and that doesn't scratch the surface of staff costs,



insurance, your insane American taxes.

"I've fought bitterly and endlessly for freedom in a country I don't even belong to — not for my benefit, but for yours. I have been betrayed and abandoned by everyone who ever called themselves my friend, with a small handful of notable exceptions.

"I was a significant factor in Donald Trump getting elected, for which I have received zero credit. I almost single-handedly ignited the current debate about free speech on campus and NO ONE has ever matched my ability to draw attention to these issues.

"For my trouble, I have lost everything standing up for the truth in America, spent all my savings, destroyed all my friendships, and ruined my whole life. At some point, you realize it's occasionally better to spend the money on crabs and cocktails.

"If anyone has a problem with that, then frankly they can go fuck themselves. All I ever read here is criticism and ingratitude. You guys have no idea what I have sacrificed for you, and you think just because I drown my sorrows with a few expensive bottles of wine, you're justified in calling me lazy and self-involved.

"I don't advertise my selflessness, because I'm not a victim. But for the love of God show some recognition of what your front-line warriors have accomplished on your behalf, you entitled fucking babies. YOU WILL KEEP LOSING until you support those of us out there on the front lines while you tweet and Facebook from your living rooms."

In the rant, he claimed that he's paying "tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars" each time he has an event, although he did not explain why he keeps hosting events if he's losing money on them, or why he's spending almost \$8000 on a night out if he has "spent all my savings."

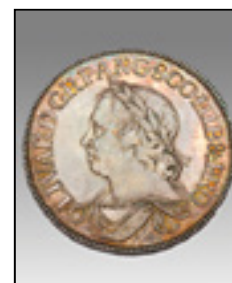
Also, his comment about "insane American taxes" is bizarre — the U.S.'s overall tax rate is about a third less than his native U.K.'s, and it's smaller than most developed countries' tax rates.

Yesterday, Milo took to Facebook to say that he's just a normal human being who eats live crabs and explodes in anger whenever anyone tells him to do his job.

"SO GUYS. I kinda casually snapped at someone in the comments the other day. Didn't realize it was going to become a "thing" in the media and on Twitter..."

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Alder Health Services

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

As this issue of *The Central Voice* hits the streets, November 6, 2018 will be nearly upon us. In case you forgot, that is the date of the General Election.

In the past four years, I have had the pleasure and honor of serving on several Commonwealth-wide boards or work-groups and have first-hand knowledge of how strongly committed our Governor, Tom Wolf is to making lives better for all Pennsylvanians, and for LGBTQIA citizens in particular. Through Executive Orders, and policy achievements we have gained ground even though nation-

ally many of our rights have been eroded. Now in any official capacity I cannot tell you how to vote, however, as you go to the polls to cast your vote, consider who your real friends are, and then vote accordingly.

Concomitantly, I cannot tell you how to cast your ballot for any of the other candidates standing for election, and that includes a vote for US Senator, and any number of state and local races. What I can do is ask you to look closely at their position statements, their public statements, and their track records...and once again, evaluate which of them truly will work for the advancement of equality for all of us in the queer community.

...as you go to the polls to cast your vote, consider who your real friends are, and then vote accordingly.

Trans Central PA Topics



By Joanne Carroll

How often have we heard that elections have consequences...only at every election cycle, and this time it is perhaps even more critical. The change we need to solidify our constitutional rights can only happen if those we elect are willing to stand up and be counted on our behalf. Regardless of the candidate(s) you choose to support, be prepared to hold their feet to the fire and settle for nothing less from them but their unequivocal support for our right to exist alongside our fellow citizens.

Sisters and brothers, we are under attack, from a number of different sources. Remember, that when you vote you have the opportunity to create a bulwark of protection from those that would seek to do us harm.

Joanne Carroll is the current President of TransCentral PA. TransCentral PA is committed to providing advocacy and caring support for transgender individuals, their significant others, families, friends and allies.



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SAY THEIR NAMES

Transgender deaths rise

Thirteen individuals gathered Sept. 14 at the LGBT Center of Central PA for a period of silence commemorating the high number of transgender deaths. The moment of silence was part of a Transgender Law Center program honoring the lives of the 14 Black transgender women who are known to have been killed in 2018. They make up the majority of the 20

trans women who have been reported dead due to homicide this year. The Daily Beast's Samatha Allen has reported that 2017 saw 28 reported killings of transgender people in the U.S. As of June, this year's grim total is 14 with more trans deaths under investigation that could make that number higher.

CENTRAL VOICE PHOTO



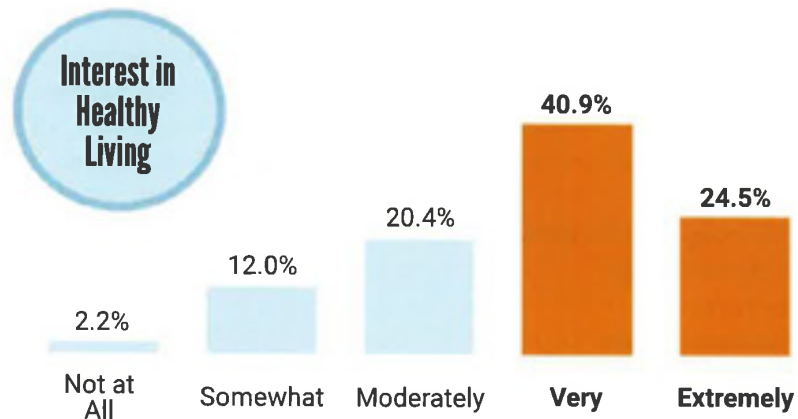
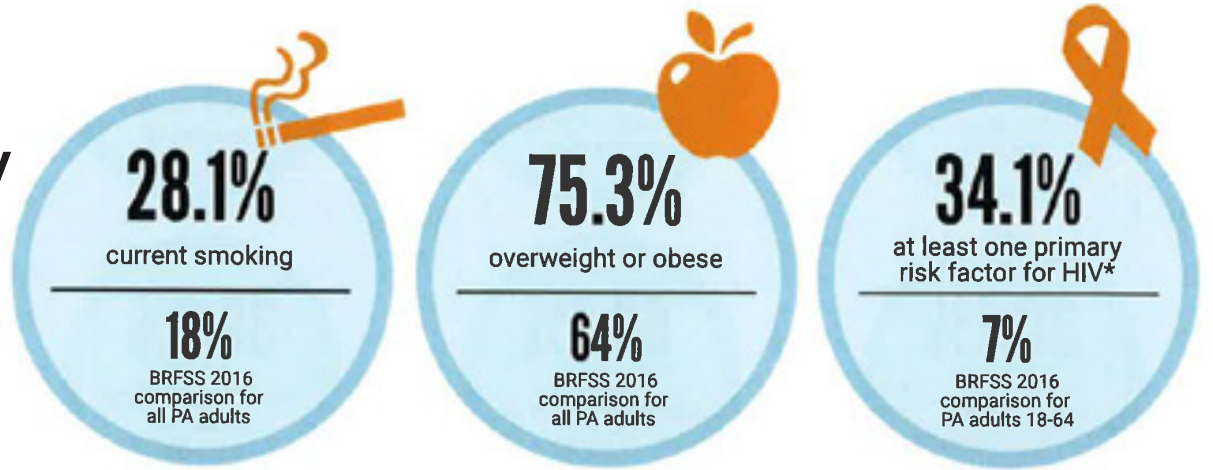
South Central PA

2018 Regional Summary LGBT Health Needs Assessment

The Pennsylvania Dept. of Health, the LGBT Center of Central PA, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, and Public Health Management Corporation recently presented findings of an assessment of an array of issues affecting LGBT people living in south central Pennsylvania.

More than 4,600 LGBT-identified Pennsylvanians participated in the assessment. The data will enable the LGBT community and long run health planners to better assess needs. "This data is vital to the health and wellness of our community," says Frank Pizzoli, publisher and editor, *The Central Voice*. Under the leadership of President Donald Trump's new appointee Robert Redfield, the Centers for Disease Control will roll back support for the collection of data on the health and well-being of LGBT people through the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). "Ignoring the LGBT community will not work in the long run. The community's collective experience of the AIDS years tells the story of how we will not allow silence to equal death," he says.

Here are some of the highlights.



South Central Pennsylvania respondents also demonstrate resiliency and are ready to incorporate healthy living strategies into their lives (such as healthy eating, exercise, tobacco cessation, etc.)... 65.4% report being very or extremely interested!

Data sources: Pennsylvania 2018 LGBT Health Needs Assessment and Pennsylvania BRFSS 2016

*Risk factors are: treated for STDs/VDs, traded money or drugs for sex, had anal sex without a condom or had 4+ sex partners in the past year, age 18-64



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Why should I need to self-censure in my own home?

The journey to "there" isn't about the destination, it's about everyone being comfortable anywhere

By Judy Baumgardner

This is a story that will begin at the end. Bringing it back around to the beginning, will hopefully bring understanding.

After two weeks of vacation in Provincetown, MA, my wife and I returned home. For most straight people, every day is Provincetown. Every day is an opportunity to take a walk in the mall or sit in a movie theater and just simply show small signs of public affection with the one they love without judgement.

We were in Provincetown celebrating my retirement after 33 years serving in a variety of capacities as an educator. This length of a vacation was a big deal for us, as we had never been away that long, especially from our dog and cats. We knew upon arrival, we would have an opportunity to put our feet on the ground with no sense of urgency and actually feel like we were part of the community.

One aspect we committed to while we were away in P-Town, was working hard on establishing and maintaining a variety of fitness routines - biking, walking, kayaking and more. So, it seemed consistent upon our return home that a big walk would be in order, especially

after 9.5 hours in the car the previous day.

We turned left out of our driveway and hit the asphalt. The chatter covered our recent adventure we had experienced. We talked of food and restaurants, shopping, beach time, exercise, a concert we attended, a comedian we heard and friends that joined us. The more we talked and walked though, the more other emotions surfaced. Probably the normal, sort of post vacation let down was there, but, that wasn't quite it. Then my wife hit upon it, we had a bit of anger. I am assuming most people don't return from vacation with anger lingering.

We also returned home reminded that two of our good friends had married while we were away. We purchased a card and gift certificate to send but then had to pause. Did they get married? We saw nothing on Facebook. They had, sadly, posted that one of their dogs had died but nothing of the wedding. Hmm, we thought we better make sure before we sent our gift off to their home. Yes, indeed they had wed and the wedding picture they texted was absolutely beautiful and brought tears to my eyes. Then again the anger, how sad that one of them could freely post of the loss of their dog but not



Judy Baumgardner, left, a local, recently retired educator and administrator and her wife Colette Eckert, kayaking in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Their vacation to a welcoming town and return home to central PA prompted unexpected emotional repercussions.

PHOTO BY COLETTE ECKERT

this most significant day of the exchange of their vows. A sharp reminder that still people feel unsafe, needing to hide their lives.

A week later we were having our carpets cleaned in our home. I was sitting at the kitchen table as the two men were setting up the equipment. I yelled "Hey Babe" to my wife about something which soon as I said, I had a knee jerk reaction and quickly pulled it back as we were unsure of where one of the men stood with regard to our sexuality. This was our home. Overreaction on my part may be but the point was made.

Now back to the beginning of our glorious getaway. Provincetown, MA, is a beautiful space here on Earth. Time floats. It is on the tip of Cape Cod, and is known as a gay tourist destination but it carries so much more than just one identity. There is diversity, on many levels, across the spectrum. It is a place of acceptance, a place where there are smiles, a chance to be light hearted and to laugh. It, I would say, exemplifies more kindness and less judgment. There is the long stroll down Commercial Street exploring the town from East End to West End. Passing the town square in the middle, there is an abundance of shops, galleries, street musicians, great food of all kinds, clubs and people watching. There, ultimately, is also the local community, behind the scenes, that makes it all happen.

Upon our arrival into town there is always much anticipation and excitement. From the moment we pull in, until the hour of departure, those feelings never wane. There is this instantaneous freedom and relief of which we are not accustomed to feeling in our everyday life.

Tradition for us is to grab our first bite of food and a drink at Bubala's on Commercial Street. This is a great spot for settling in, shaking off the long travel and

watching the ebb and flow of characters. We unpack and head out the door. Even more important than this ritual though (one of the first signs of normalcy for us), is that we reach for each other's hand. Yes, we hold hands as we walk. A simple gesture I would assume straight people never really have to contemplate. Pure joy in joining our hands in public. Seems silly doesn't it? Not really.

As we strolled the town on our first evening just reacquainting ourselves and breathing it all in, we popped into one of the local liquor stores to grab a bottle of wine. The gentleman behind the counter, a local resident, chatted with us, and then he inquired as to where we called home. We talked of how we love our home and there are many great people and aspects of where we live, but we also talked of the pressure still to not be fully who we are. We talked about our love for P-Town and the lightness that came with being there. We continued to gab, and as we finished our transaction, he gently looked up, paused, smiled and simply stated "Welcome Home". It has been several weeks since that day, and the depth of that Welcome Home has not left me. It settled deep in my soul.

As I travel my journey, my hope is that we get to "there". What do I mean by "there"? For me it is so important, that we as a society of collective humans would not judge love, that there would be understanding and acceptance and that we could really spend our energies learning how to rally around each other and our common humanity. Fear can be natural, but we must give voice to hope. Hope that one day all minorities will be lifted up and our nation and our world will be stronger and healthier for it. We as a nation should hope that home can be anywhere for everyone.



Provincetown, MA, where Judy Baumgardner and her wife Collette Eckert visited, lies at the tip of Cape Cod and is known as a welcoming gay tourist destination.

Harmony Walk



The 4th annual Harmony Walk on Sept. 16 drew about 55 people from various faiths, including Jewish, Christian, and Islamic houses of worship. The goal of the walk, according to organizers is to provide “A celebration of cooperation among religions in the Harrisburg area. The walk will bring together people of many faiths in harmony and peace.” The walk began at the Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church.




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TOP PSYCHOLOGIST SAYS

Clergy sex abuse not about gay priests

Gina Christian, of *Catholic News Service*, reports that misconceptions people may have about sexual abuse, sexual harassment and homosexuality as elements of the ongoing crisis in the church can hinder efforts to address it, according to a leading psychologist and expert on the crisis.

The complex nature of each of the elements can make it “hard for the average Catholic in the pew” to grasp key differences among them, delaying the formulation of “good, smart solutions,” Santa Clara University psychologist Dr. Thomas Plante told *CatholicPhilly.com*, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

A prolific author who also serves on Stanford University’s faculty, Plante has spent more than 30 years researching and treating psychological issues among Catholic clergy and laypersons.

Although many blame the abuse scandals on homosexuality among the clergy, same-sex attraction does not make priests more likely to sexually abuse children, Plante said.

“It’s perfectly understandable that people could be confused by this, because we know that 80 percent or more of the clerical sexual abuse victims are boys,” Plante said. “So people conclude that if you get rid of homosexuals in the clergy, then you’ve got the problem solved. And it doesn’t work that way.”

Most of the clerical sexual abuse perpetrators have been “situational generalists,” a term used throughout extensive John Jay College of Criminal Justice summary reports, the most recent in 2011, to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

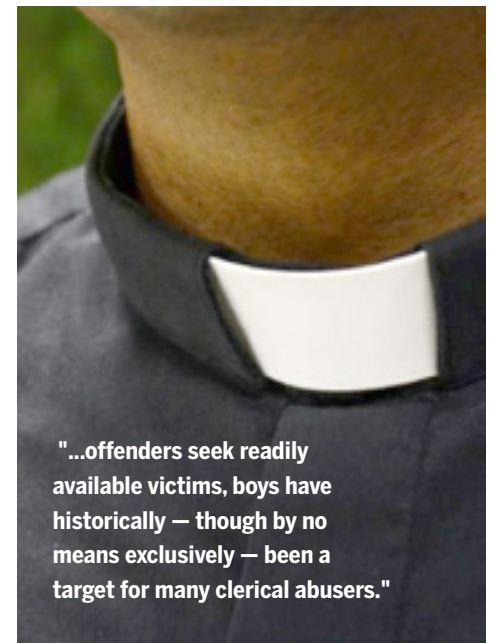
Generalists do not have a specific sexual preference for youth, but instead “turn to children as a sort of substitute” due to psychological and emotional difficulties in bonding with peers, Plante observed.

Such individuals — who often exhibit issues with substance abuse and impulse control — “can’t develop successful, negotiated, intimate relationships with adults,” said Plante, who recently served as vice chair of the USCCB’s National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Youth.

Since generalist offenders seek readily available victims, boys have historically — though by no means exclusively — been a target for many clerical abusers.

“Priests for the most part had access to boys, and trust with boys, much more so than girls,” said Plante, noting that this proximity has led to the erroneous correlation between homosexuality and clerical abuse.

Only a small number of abusive priests — and of sexual abusers in the general population — can be formally classified as pedophiles, according to the clinical definition used by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in its “Diagnostic and



“...offenders seek readily available victims, boys have historically — though by no means exclusively — been a target for many clerical abusers.”

Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM),” the authoritative guide used by mental health professionals worldwide.

“The classic pedophile is attracted to young, prepubescent children,” said Plante. Prepubescence is typically defined as less than age 11.

Priestly celibacy can also be discounted as an underlying cause of the clerical scandals. In an article Plante wrote Aug. 23 for *Psychology Today*, he pointed out that “the vast majority of sex offenders are regular men, often married or partnered, with 80 percent or more victimizing their own family members.”

This striking gap between the genders — with “90 to 95 percent” of perpetrators being male — is generally due to basic differences in the psychological makeup of the sexes.

“Men tend to have what we call more ‘externalizing’ problems when it comes to psychiatric issues, while women tend to have more ‘internalizing’ problems,” Plante said. “Women are more likely to exhibit depression and anxiety, whereas men tend to act out. They’re more prone to commit violence and sexual exploitation.”

Because the traumatic nature of child sexual abuse tends to hinder victims from disclosing their attacks until years later, recent legal investigations do not always reflect current levels of clerical abuse, which have declined significantly, Plante observed.

“I think the average person on the street thinks this is rampant today in 2018, when it’s not,” he said, adding that annual data collections, independent audits, safe environment training and zero-tolerance policies have proven effective.

“I think we are using best practices now,” he said. “Sadly, we can’t change what happened 30, 40, 50 years ago, and we treat those victims with great compassion and respect. But thankfully for everybody, today’s Church is very different from yesterday’s Church.”



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Daughter and mother leave Church of Scientology

DOUBLE EPIPHANY

By Frank Pizzoli

“There is nothing as powerful as a mother’s love, and nothing as healing as a child’s soul.” *Unknown* said the best things. But what Michelle LeClair said about her and her mother’s ordeal with The Church of Scientology is even better.

LeClair, former President of Scientology’s international humanitarian organization, tried to reconcile her same-sex attraction with the church’s anti-gay ideology. She finally ends her horrific marriage to a man, which she tells *The Central Voice* was “abusive”.

Eventually, LeClair finds the love of her life, a woman, and ultimately leaves the church. But the split comes at a terrible price. Her once pristine reputation is publicly dragged through the mud, the police raid her home, her ex-husband tries to gain full custody of their children, and the multi-million-dollar business she built from scratch is utterly destroyed.

In her tell-all memoir, *Perfectly Clear: Escaping Scientology and Fighting for the Woman I Love*, LeClair offers an insider’s perspective on Scientology’s pervasive influence, secret rituals, and ruthless practices for keeping members in line. It’s a story of self-acceptance, of finding the strength and courage to stand up for your emotional freedom, and of love prevailing.

In a cover story for *People* magazine, LeClair, told about her and her mom Terri’s eventual defection from the church, her newly accepted sexual identity, and the lengths to which Scientology went to silence it. Both she and her mom Terri, who worked for the church for 25 years, are at peace with one another but not before many tangled struggles with each other and spiteful Scientologists.

“My mother was hysterical when I told her I was gay,” LeClair told *The Central Voice*. “What will the church say? I’ll lose

my job (with Scientology).” That was then. Now is now. “We’re as close as can be,” LeClair says. They live within miles of each other in rural Georgia where LeClair lives with the love of her life Tena Clark. She has her mother’s love. Her daughter’s soul is healed.

LeClair’s loving relationship with Clark – which sparked the book title – is what caught Scientology’s hair on fire.

LeClair and her mother Terri put out that fire by leaving the church. After 21 years and \$5 million in donations and sweat equity, LeClair had enough. Terri devoted 25 years of 14 to 18 days to the church. Most of those years overlapped. LeClair was 16 years old when her mom joined. After a serious, life-changing vehicle accident at 18, LeClair joined by the time she was 19.

“When you’re 18, 19 years old and someone, in this case a Scientology auditor, wants to hear every detail of your life, you’re grateful for the attention,” LeClair says. She told NBC’s Megan Kelly she disclosed early to an ‘auditor’ her youthful attraction to women. Interestingly enough, that’s where her auditor wanted to begin the discussion, immediately focusing on her sexuality and sexual history, she explained. Of course, same as Conversion Therapy, her auditors had

no doubt they would change her same-sex attraction.

Her compelling, relevant story made short – LeClair fought her same-sex attractions through a 14-year marriage to a man, then against Scientology’s rules finally divorced him after falling in love with Clark.

Today they live an entwined life unencumbered by LeClair’s skirmish with Scientology, but that took some maneuvering by her, Clark, family, friends. After all, Hell hath no fury like a Scientologist spurned.

“We all need a support circle,” she tells *Voice*. After serious legal entanglements with the State of California, now resolved, \$1.1 million in ‘pay back’ to former business clients and establishment of an independently managed trust fund, all detailed in her book, she looks toward the future with hope and renewed energy.

LeClair warns the LGBT community:



Michelle LeClair’s loving relationship with Tena Clark (right) ultimately led to LeClair and her mother, both longtime followers of Scientology, to leave the church. LeClair talks about her defection from the church, her newly accepted sexual identity, and the lengths to which Scientology went to silence it.

“Beware Scientology. They are the same as Conversion Therapy. They believe they can change your sexuality.”

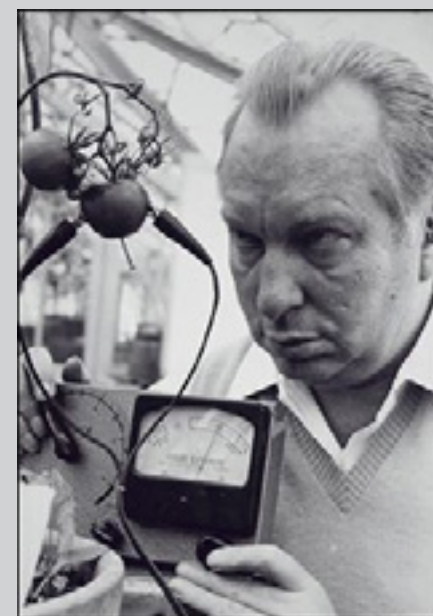
Now settled into a loving relationship with Clark, LeClair’s voice belies her renewed sense of wonder about the world. “I have what I call ‘pinching days’ when I

wonder if my life is real,” she tells *Voice*. Her book will bring closure for her. All proceeds from book go the trust established to benefit former clients caught up in the scandal “I have no regrets and sleep well at night,” LeClair says.

SCIENTOLOGY IN A NUTSHELL

Scientology is a body of religious beliefs and practices launched in May 1952 by American author L. Ron Hubbard (1911–86). Hubbard initially developed a program of ideas called Dianetics, distributed through the Dianetics Foundation which soon entered bankruptcy. Hubbard lost the rights to Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health. He then recharacterized the subject as a religion and renamed it the Church of Scientology.

A 2001 survey estimated that 55,000 people in the U. S. claimed to be Scientologists. Worldwide membership estimates range between 100,000 and 200,000, mostly in the U.S., Europe, South Africa and Australia, reported *Rolling Stone* magazine. The 2008 American Religious Identification Survey found that the number of American Scientologists had dropped to 25,000. A 2008 Trinity College survey concluded there were only 25,000 American Scientologists. Scientology is also declining in the United Kingdom. In 2011, High-level defector Jeff



Scientology founder Ron L. Hubbard with an early version of his E-meter used to audit church members.

Hawkins estimated there were 40,000 Scientologists worldwide. Although the Church of Scientology claims to be the fastest growing religious movement on Earth, the church’s estimates of its membership numbers are reportedly significantly exaggerated.

CASH BAIL: Is it a queer issue?

from page 1

of a comment? How about this: imprisonment isn't a drug rehabilitation service.

What is cash bail?

The reality is that people are locked up in cages for the sole reason that they can't afford not to be.

The Brooklyn Bail Fund estimates that more than 60 percent of people incarcerated in the U.S. are being detained while they await trial. They haven't been found guilty of anything; most simply don't have the resources to pay their bail.

The practice of cash bail impacts the people living at the margins of the margins -- including queer and trans people of color. This is a nation-wide issue, and it has a local impact right here in central Pennsylvania.

The cash bail system traps people in jail awaiting trial.

While awaiting trial in jail, people can lose jobs or housing, experience sexual victimization at the hands of staff or others who are incarcerated, and have their parenting and family lives interrupted.

This system also forces people to choose between possibly waiting in jail for a longer period of time for trial and pleading guilty (even if they are not guilty) to help with getting out sooner.

Is bail an LGBT issue?

Key moments in LGBT history have involved pushback against police and unjust laws.

The 1966 Compton's Cafeteria Riot started when police sought to crack down on transgender people and others in the San Francisco restaurant for violating laws related to what was called cross-dressing.

The 1969 Stonewall Riots started with a police raid on the bar in New York City, where laws criminalized LGBT people simply for gathering and also for violating bizarre codes related to wearing an appropriate number of articles of gendered clothing.

Similar to the laws that led to the Compton and Stonewall police activity, legislation in the U.S. has sought to define as criminal the ways LGBT people live our lives. Consider anti-sodomy laws that were geared toward regulating the sexual lives of LGBT people and were struck down in the 2003 *Lawrence v. Texas* case. The recent Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, the North Carolina law more commonly known as HB2, which sought to criminalize public restroom usage by transgender people. These examples involved bail, or the inability to afford it, for LGBT people.

Unjust: How the Broken Criminal Justice System Fails LGBT People, a 2016 report from the Movement Advancement Project, describes the factors that lead to LGBT people entering the system, the ways LGBT people are treated poorly while in the system, and LGBT people's lives after conviction.

Anti-LGBT discrimination can lead to difficulty maintaining housing and keeping a job, and discriminatory enforcement of laws (like HIV criminalization) directly targets our communities. LGBT people then face bias in the sentencing

process, and face unfair treatment in facilities -- for example, transgender women being placed in male facilities, and LGBT people experiencing sexual victimization by staff and other inmates while incarcerated. After conviction, LGBT people face challenges rebuilding our lives, including lack of support through re-entry programs.

Early start

Criminalization of LGBT people starts early in our lives.

In its 2012 report, *The Unfair Criminalization of Gay and Transgender Youth*, Center for American Progress reported that around 300,000 LGBT youth are arrested or detained each year. More than 60 percent are black or Latinx. Even though LGBT youth "represent just 5-7 % of the nation's overall youth population, they compose 13-15% of those currently in the juvenile justice system."

In 2012, the Department of Justice reported that LGBT people experienced sexual victimization while incarcerated at rates higher than their non-LGBT counterparts. Sexual victimization occurred at the hands of other people who are incarcerated as well as staff at these facilities. Transgender adults were the mostly likely to report sexual victimization while incarcerated. Our communities are overpoliced, meaning that we interact with the criminal justice system more than non-LGBT people, and we experience it more harshly once we're in it.

Bail is often set based on how much of a flight risk the accused is assumed to be, and once again, LGBT people face bias in this key area of the criminal justice system. LGBT people may be deemed a higher flight risk because the court system does not recognize our connection to chosen families, and because systemic oppression ensures that the most marginalized among us are less likely to have a job, formal education credentials, and other indicators of community connection that the system looks for. So our LGBT siblings are left with higher bail amounts that they are already less able to pay because of all the factors leading to them being less economically secure.

Also, cash bail impacts us for the very basic reason that we're people who are subject to the system that is in place here. Therefore we need to understand how bail works and stand in solidarity with all who are impacted.

How can you get involved locally?

The idea for Dauphin County Bail Fund came out of local organizers working through This Stops Today Harrisburg. TSTH an action-oriented social justice organization that aims to address institutional and personal racial bias through community engagement, consciousness-raising, civil disobedience, legislation, and reflection. The group seeks police accountability and restorative justice, as well as equity in the political, social, and economic realms for systemically disenfranchised people of color.

Organizers from This Stops Today have collaborated with other local organizers

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victimization while
incarcerated**

from groups including Decarcerate PA, Democratic Socialists of America - Harrisburg Chapter, and National Lawyers Guild - Central PA Chapter in the creation of Dauphin County Bail Fund. DCBF is part of the National Bail Fund Network, which provides mentorship and resources in getting started and being effective.

Dauphin County Bail Fund is a non-profit community organization dedicated to freeing our community members from cages and ending the practice of cash bail.

That's a key part: we want to reduce the harm in an immediate sense for those experiencing it, but ultimately the group seeks system change.

Get involved by volunteering to help with bail fund operations, raise funds and spread the word about the bail fund, or donate to it yourself.

INFO - Dauphin County Bail Fund at www.dauphincountybailfund.org

Pennsylvania bail at a glance:

John Z. Murphy Jr. spent 42 days in Northampton County Jail on misdemeanor charges because he couldn't come up with \$800 in bail money. (AP, July 28, 2018)

Pennsylvania houses more pre-trial inmates than all but a handful of states. (Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit that seeks to improve fairness in the courts)

Pennsylvania houses more pre-trial inmates than all but a handful of states. (Vera Institute of Justice). In contrast, New Jersey all but eliminated cash bail last year, replacing it with a system in which judges jail only those defendants who are deemed to be a significant flight risk or a danger to commit more crimes.

In Cumberland County, according to *The (Carlisle) Sentinel* (April, 2017): In 2014, more than a quarter of all defendants in Cumberland County who had monetary bail imposed had their bail

reduced and were later released without having to put up any cash, according to an analysis of court records conducted by The Sentinel.

In Pennsylvania, Allegheny County has taken the lead regarding the use of such risk assessments. In Philadelphia, District Attorney Larry Krasner announced in February that his office would no longer seek monetary bails for many misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies.

Increasingly, state policymakers are re-examining the purpose of bail. Six in 10 adults in U.S. jails have not been convicted of a crime. They are locked up awaiting trial, mostly because they're too poor to post bail. They are legally presumed innocent, but many spend months and even years awaiting trial. Often, they feel pressure to take a plea deal rather than spend more time in jail. (Pew Educational Trust, 2017)

Dauphin County Bail Fund :

Who gets help?

Dauphin County Bail Fund (DCBF) will use the following interactive factors to evaluate whether we will assist someone who applies for our help paying bail:

- *Inability to pay bail required, including lack of access to family or community resources;*

- *Amount of bail to be paid;*

- *Existing support system, such as a family member or case manager who is committed to providing assistance making court dates and/or other forms of support;*

- *Risk of victimization in the jail, including but not limited to: gender identity and expression (namely transgender, gender non-conforming or LGBTQI people), people with disabilities, and youth or elder status;*

- *Special health needs such as pregnancy, chronic medical conditions, HIV-*

positive status, or ongoing mental health treatment;

- *Dependents or other family members who may be harmed by applicant's detention, including risk of custody loss or Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) involvement;*

- *Immigration status and potential immigration consequences of a criminal conviction.*

- *Referral through or connection to established partner organization;*

- *Anticipated impact of detention on applicant's employment, housing, educational attainment, and/or custodial rights;*

- *Position in relation to structural violence, community disinvestment, systemic racism, survival, and resistance; and*

- *Willingness to assist with raising money to cover any anticipated court costs, fines, or fees that will not be refunded to the bail fund.*

REFLECTIONS from page 1

commodation, just felt good and was the right thing to do. I also think that working behind the scenes to make sure Governor Corbett didn't appeal the marriage decision was a remarkable moment. While I give all credit to the ACLU for winning marriage equality in the courts, people forget that had the governor chosen to appeal the decision in the courts, marriage equality would have been far slower to arrive in Pennsylvania. We worked quietly and relentlessly behind the scenes with him and when Governor Corbett called me to say he wasn't going to appeal the decision because of our efforts, it was a moment I'll never forget.

Also, I'm proud that Equality PA's efforts influenced PennDOT to change their gender marker policy for driver's licenses in 2010. Partnering with TransCentral PA in this effort, that work allowed transgender Pennsylvanians to ensure that their gender marker matched their authentic selves, and that small change impacted thousands of people in a positive way.

Finally, the work that Equality PA has done with Governor Wolf has been nothing short of groundbreaking. Pennsylvania state programming is now more fair and open to members of the LGBT community than ever before because when Tom Wolf became governor, he listened to our recommendations and established the LGBT Interagency Workgroup. That group (chaired ably by former Equality PA board member and now Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine) has worked tirelessly to make sure every state agency is addressing the needs of LGBT Pennsylvanians and doing everything they can to be fair and inclusive. That workgroup, now part of a full-blown Commission on LGBTQ Affairs --- another Equality PA recommendation incorporated by Governor Wolf, and the first in the nation --- is set to continue doing great things for thousands of people.

CV: *What's been the hold up with Pennsylvania passing an amendment to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission's charter that would provide LGBT taxpayers basic civil rights and protections?*

TM: It certainly hasn't been for lack of trying. In 2015-16, Equality PA helped to round-up nearly 100 cosponsors of both parties in support of the nondiscrimination legislation. It was the largest cosponsor list for this legislation ever. Poll after poll shows the public thinks it is the right thing to do. Several Pennsylvania Governors of both parties have stated their support. We brought the largest employer in Pennsylvania, UPMC, and many other businesses onboard as public supporters of the legislation because it was good economic development. Equality PA was the driving force behind creation of the LGBT Equality Caucus in the Pennsylvania legislature, and they have worked tirelessly to educate and to pass the nondiscrimination legislation. Governor Wolf has voiced strong support for it. I really wish I could pinpoint the reluctance. To be frank, not passing that legislation is one of the most bitter disappointments of my life.

CV: *What is your reaction to PA State Rep. Brian Sims commenting that he thinks there are about a dozen gay members of*

the legislature?

TM: Rep. Sims knows his colleagues far better than I do. However, I really wish we'd move past this question. It's a parlor game at best, and no one really will ever know for certain. I wish the numbers people really concentrated on were those related to how many calls or emails or letters or visits a legislator receives telling them to move nondiscrimination legislation. Or the number of legislators in the LGBT Equality Caucus. Or the number of LGBT people running for office. Those are the numbers that really matter.

CV: *Estimates are that about 20-25% of cis-gendered, white gay men and lesbians voted for President Trump. Is economic and social privilege a layer of protection not available to less well-heeled LGBT individuals?*

TM: Absolutely. LGBT people are impacted by bad policy and economic inequality just like everyone else. Most importantly, elections have consequences. If you're simply happy that your pockets are fuller while others less fortunate struggle to achieve equal rights, you are choosing to ignore what America is supposed to be all about.

CV: *What is your biggest fear for the LGBT community?*

TM: That as we find ourselves being more and more a part of the fabric of everyday life that we somehow forget that we ARE unique. That we forget to have fun. That we no longer show the joy that comes with being LGBT. That would be tragic. There's a balance to be struck, and we don't have to give up being our queer and transgender selves to get there.

CV: *What is your biggest joy for the LGBT community?*

TM: That in so many instances our lives are regarded with nonchalance and simply as a part of the fabric of life. I love being able to say "Husband" with the casual abandon that only comes from a greater acceptance. I'm so grateful that I've been able to see and witness this in my lifetime. That's a gift. Far, far, far too many people were denied that simple dignity.

CV: *Add anything you think is important.*

TM: Pennsylvania, the veritable birthplace of American liberty, remains the ONLY state in the Northeast where you can legally fire an LGBT person or deny them housing or a public accommodation. In the 21st century, that is simply wrong.

About Ted Martin

Starting his career as a Legislative Assistant and the Deputy Chief of Staff of a subcommittee of the Education and Labor Committee of the US House of Representatives, Ted Martin has subsequently worked in the field of architectural preservation, communications and marketing and economic development. He is also a busy volunteer and serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations. Martin was named a Person of the Year by the Philadelphia Gay News and has also been recognized with a Peacemaker in Our Midst Award by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. He and his husband, Dwayne, reside in Camp Hill outside of Harrisburg and were married on June 19, 2008 in La Jolla, California.

"Back in the day" is looking a lot like today

How does what was happening in the protest movements of the 1960s relate to the social justice movements of today? I recently was asked to do a session on this topic for a national leadership conference for college/university student leaders and advisers from campuses across the country, and I was happy to do so.

I've been thinking a lot about this over the years, for I came of age during the years 1966-71. I was studying English and American literature in graduate school, and I strongly identified with Herman Melville, who once wrote to Nathaniel Hawthorne that he dated his life from his 25th year. Melville had experienced no real development before then, he said. I happened to turn 25 in 1969, and was I excited to read that letter; Herman Melville and I had something in common!

There was so much going on during the 1960s that it was impossible to keep up, especially for a young grad student who was taking classes and studying to become a college professor.

The classes were demanding, the expectations high. And outside the classroom students were advocating for an end to the Vietnam War, for justice for African Americans, for liberation of women and yes, for the freedom to love whom-ever you wanted to love. I wanted to soak it all up, to experience all of it.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was exhilarating, it was exhausting.

More recently, I've been heartened by the protests both on and off campus that have sprung up over the past 15 years or so. My wife, Michelle, and I went to Washington, D.C. for the big Iraq antiwar rally in 2003, and it reminded me of the Vietnam War protests. There was a spirit present that was similar to that back in the day--people were feeling genuine solidarity with one another.

Today I see many people--college students and others--who are experiencing what I was 60 years ago. It is exhilarating, it is exhausting. And the people I know who are advocating for social justice across the board are finding their

Ally
in the
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By Trum
Simmons

way to fight the good fight.

I am guardedly optimistic about today's efforts. The Black Lives Matter Movement, the #MeToo Movement, the fight for basic human rights for all those on the LGBTQ+ spectrum, the crying out for fair treatment of refugees and immigrants, the antiwar activities--all of them give me hope.

At the same time, what we might call the dark side of the unrest in our country is the same as always. The dark side I'm referring to is, of course, the backlash.

Protesting college students (both undergrad and graduate) in the 1960s faced daily cries of "America: Love it or leave it," and we were said to be unpatriotic, ill-informed and just plain wrong about everything.

Families were divided, and it was impossible for many parents and their children to talk honestly about what was going on in the country. While we were gathering together to discuss what to do about the military draft, millions of Americans were calling us "cowards" and "sissies."

What curious language. At the time, I wore long (well, longish) hair and love beads. Walking down the streets of Nashville, I was whistled at by truckers and stared at by passersby. Attending an antiwar teach-in on campus meant having to put up with a counter-protest that featured people yelling all sorts of epithets.

Today it's much the same, especially with our current president. We thought Richard Nixon and LBJ were pretty scary, and now look where we are. The meanness and bullying of Donald Trump and so many of his followers is in a new class all by itself. I believe in trying to avoid them at all costs.

If I have any advice to offer today's progressive activists, it is simply this. Keep the faith. Seriously. Your task is to do what you can to work for a better world, keeping in mind the words of Henry David Thoreau: A thing well done is done forever.

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AWARDS from page 1

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In addition to being named second place for the Newspaper of the Year in our division, *The Central Voice* was the winner of the General Excellence Award.

“Recognition by peers let’s us know we’re on the right path”, says Frank Pizzoli, founding editor and publisher Frank Pizzoli.

“We’re pleased and honored to receive these awards,” said Louise Sukle, president of Press And Journal Publications, parent company of *The Central Voice*. “This is an enormous salute to our staff. I want take this occasion to also thank our loyal readers and advertisers. These awards are *their* awards, too.”

The Central Voice also took first place awards in Advertising Excellence, Diversity and Community Service. “We make diversity and community service part of our business mission. Many voices create *The Central Voice* newspaper and web site,” Pizzoli says.

In addition, second place honors were won in the categories of News Presentation Excellence, Editorial & Commentary Excellence, Best Use of Photography, and Promotion. “Media is calendars, clocks and deadlines. And a dedicated team who cares about every aspect of the finished product. Our team of advertisers, sales representatives, contributing writers, readers, designers, web site, and print shop is a committed group.”

Restaurant’s response to waiter’s anti-gay slur

A restaurant in Texas fired an employee for slinging an anti-gay slur when a gay couple came to the restaurant reports Alex Bollinger for *LGBTQ Nation*.

Sandra Clement was at the Agave Jalisco Mexican Restaurant in Corpus Christi with her son and his boyfriend who “exchanged a hug as they entered the restaurant and a male employee pointed at them while talking to some female employees seated at a table and screamed ‘jotos,’” Clement wrote in a Facebook post that has since been deleted.

“Joto” is an anti-gay slur in Spanish.

She said that the other employees laughed as the employee started singing “jotos” repeatedly.

It took less than a day for the restaurant to issue a public apology.

“We... know the seriousness of this issue, and want to state that we do not condone or accept this type of homophobic behavior,” the statement said.

“We are writing this statement now as a public apology the Clement family, Miguel Clement, and his boyfriend. We here at Agave Jalisco are truly sorry for what happened that day, and will strive to always make Agave Jalisco a loving, accepting business, free of judgement. We will make sure this never happens again.”

Clement later posted on Facebook, “Our son, his boyfriend, and our family applaud Agave Jalisco for taking swift action in addressing the unfortunate incident.”

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Wagner campaign shares meme mocking trans people

Philly reporter was accidentally included on the thread from Wagner campaign consultant.

Max Marin of Philadelphia's *Billy Penn* news site reports that a text message accidentally received by *Billy Penn* shows a campaign consultant for Republican gubernatorial candidate Scott Wagner sharing a lewd meme with a group of top campaign officials.

On Sept. 6, Ray Zaborney, a well-known political consultant whose GOP-leaning firm was recently retained to handle Wagner's media operations, texted a meme of television personality Caitlyn Jenner next to a statement that seemingly mocks the celebrity's gender transition.

Zaborney sent the meme to four people: Jason High, Wagner's campaign manager; Jenise Harris, the campaign's finance director; Shauna Boscaccy, policy director; and a *Billy Penn* reporter, who was not an intended recipient.

The meme features a black-and-white photograph of Jenner, styled to imitate Nike's new advertisement featuring Colin Kaepernick. The ad campaign plays off the former NFL quarterback's decision to continue kneeling during the national anthem, despite the ostensible consequence of losing his job. Conservatives nationwide have responded by destroying their Nike apparel and declaring a moral boycott against the company.

In the Jenner meme shared among Wagner operatives, which is marked up with the brand's signature swoosh and the "Just Do It" slogan, imposed over the

photo is a modified message:

"Believe in something. Even if it means cutting your dick off."

Zaborney is a media specialist in Pennsylvania politics whose job often entails feeding information to journalists, both on and off the record. On Wednesday, this reporter had been trying to reach Zaborney for information about an unrelated story involving the Wagner campaign.

None of the recipients responded to the meme in the group chat.

Alex Reber, PA State Democratic Party treasurer tells The Central Voice, "Scott Wagner's team has shown that they are not prepared to represent all Pennsylvanians. While Scott Wagner's team mocks transgender individuals, Governor Tom Wolf has created the first LGBTQ Commission in the country to ensure our community is represented in state government."

One member of the newly-appointed commission, Joanne M. Carroll, calls the

meme "disgusting, albeit not surprising!". "Politicians aligned to the right consider it sport to dehumanize, malign, or objectify anyone who is not like them...straight, white, and cis-gender. Carroll is President of TransCentralPA, and Co-Chair of Keystone Conference, a transgender annual event held in the Harrisburg region. The event draws between 500 and 700 mostly transgender individuals from about 20 states and a dozen foreign countries.

"Politicians aligned to the right consider it sport to dehumanize, malign, or objectify anyone who is not like them..."

-Joanne M. Carroll

Amanda Arbour, executive director, LGBT Center of Central PA, tells Voice "This kind of disgusting and hateful meme is indicative of a larger culture that does not validate or value transgender people, and instead uses them as the punch line of a joke - or targets them with very real violence."

In 2017, the Human Rights Campaign reported advocates tracked at least 28 deaths of transgender people in the U.S., the most ever recorded. Some of these cases involve clear anti-transgender bias. In others, the victim's transgender status may have put them at risk in other ways, such as forcing them into homelessness.

Arbour says "we fully affirm and support transgender people as important and valuable members of our community who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

"Scott Wagner must immediately fire campaign consultant Ray Zaborney for his despicable, transphobic actions and campaign manager Jason High for failing to denounce Zaborney," says Mike Mikus, senior communications advisor for the Pennsylvania Democratic Party.

"Pennsylvanians deserve a governor who will stand up for everyone in the commonwealth, but Wagner has already made clear that he is not that leader. Just recently, he said that he would consider signing a bill to make same sex marriage illegal. Scott Wagner as governor would take Pennsylvania backwards. Scott Wagner needs to take immediate action to fire Zaborney and High," Mikus says."

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